

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MANUEL E. SHOTWELL,

Plaintiff,

v.

S. BRANDT, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 10-05232 CW (PR)

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT;
DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT TO
PROCEED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL
RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
4(c)(3); DENYING AS MOOT
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SERVICE
BY THE U.S. MARSHAL

(Docket nos. 19 & 29)

Plaintiff, a state prisoner currently incarcerated at Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP), filed the instant pro se civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On December 15, 2010, the Court determined that Plaintiff qualified to proceed in forma pauperis (IFP) and, accordingly, granted him IFP status. On December 16, 2010, however, Plaintiff paid the full filing fee of \$350.00. The Court consequently vacated his IFP status and ordered him to serve all of the named Defendants or face dismissal of his claims against those Defendants.

I. Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment

On December 29, 2011, Plaintiff filed a motion for default judgment as to all Defendants. In his motion, he states that Defendants were served with the summons and complaint in this case on September 8, 2011, and that they have not yet responded. In support of his motion, he attaches signed certified mail receipts dated September 8, 2011.

Plaintiff argues that because Defendants have not timely appeared in this action after having been served, he is entitled to a default judgment against them. The Court has ascertained,

1 however, that no Defendant has notified the California Attorney
2 General's Office of the pendency of this action or that he has been
3 served with the summons and complaint; no Defendant is represented
4 by the California Attorney General's Office at this time.

5 The reasonable inference to be drawn from the above is that
6 Plaintiff's attempt to serve Defendants was unsuccessful.
7 Accordingly, Plaintiff's application for the entry of default
8 judgment is DENIED as premature.

9 II. Plaintiff's Request for Court-Ordered Service

10 In various filings that pre-date his motion for default
11 judgment, Plaintiff requests that the Court direct either the
12 United States Marshal or other Court personnel to assist him in
13 effectuating service of process. The Court hereby addresses those
14 requests.

15 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915, the Court may authorize a party to
16 proceed IFP in an action or proceeding if the party submits an
17 affidavit showing the person is unable to pay such fees. 28 U.S.C.
18 § 1915(a)(1). If such authorization is granted, the Marshal is
19 directed to serve all process in the case. Id. § 1915(c),(d). If
20 such authorization is denied, the plaintiff is not automatically
21 entitled to have the Marshal serve Defendants. Fed. R. Civ. P.
22 4(c)(2). However, even if a plaintiff is not proceeding IFP, the
23 Court has discretion, at the plaintiff's request, to order that
24 service be made by the Marshal or by a person specially appointed
25 by the Court. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(c)(3).

26 This action has been pending since November of 2010.
27 Plaintiff, an incarcerated state prisoner, appears to have
28 exercised diligence in attempting to serve Defendants but has been

1 unable to effect service himself. The Court, therefore, will
2 exercise its discretion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
3 4(c)(3) and direct the Clerk of the Court to attempt to serve
4 Defendants, as set forth in the Conclusion of this Order.

5 In light of the above, Plaintiff's motion for service by the
6 Marshal is DENIED as moot.

7 CONCLUSION

8 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

9 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and
10 Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver
11 of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint and all attachments
12 thereto (docket no. 1) and a copy of this Order to SVSP Lieutenants
13 S. Brandt, L. Negron and R.A. Kessler; SVSP Sergeant B. Petersen;
14 SVSP Warden G. Lewis; SVSP Appeals Coordinators E. B. Jones, P.
15 Nickerson and E. Medina; SVSP Correctional Officers C. Santos, G.
16 Gudino, S. Celaya and D. Garcia; SVSP Captain W. Muniz and the
17 Chief of the Inmate Appeals Branch in Sacramento, N. Grannis.

18 The Clerk of the Court shall also mail a copy of the
19 complaint and a copy of this Order to the California Attorney
20 General's Office. Additionally, the Clerk shall mail a copy of
21 this Order to Plaintiff.

22 2. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules
23 of Civil Procedure requires them to cooperate in saving unnecessary
24 costs of service of the summons and complaint. Pursuant to Rule 4,
25 if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the
26 Court, on behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons,
27 fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of such
28 service unless good cause be shown for their failure to sign and

1 return the waiver form. If service is waived, this action will
2 proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the
3 waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B),
4 Defendants will not be required to serve and file an answer before
5 sixty (60) days from the date on which the request for waiver was
6 sent. (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required
7 if formal service of summons is necessary.) Defendants are asked
8 to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that
9 more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to
10 waiver of service of the summons. If service is waived after the
11 date provided in the Notice but before Defendants have been
12 personally served, the Answer shall be due sixty (60) days from the
13 date on which the request for waiver was sent or twenty (20) days
14 from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

15 3. Defendants shall answer the complaint in accordance with
16 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The following briefing
17 schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

18 a. No later than ninety (90) days from the date their
19 answer is due, Defendants shall file a motion for summary judgment
20 or other dispositive motion. The motion shall be supported by
21 adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to
22 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56. If Defendants are of the
23 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they
24 shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment
25 motion is due. All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly
26 served on Plaintiff.

27 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion
28 shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendants no later

1 than sixty (60) days after the date on which Defendants' motion is
2 filed.

3 The Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be
4 given to pro se plaintiffs facing a summary judgment motion:

5 The defendant has made a motion for summary
6 judgment by which they seek to have your case dismissed.
7 A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the
8 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end
9 your case.

10 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to
11 oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary
12 judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue
13 of material fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute
14 about any fact that would affect the result of your case,
15 the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to
16 judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.
17 When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary
18 judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or
19 other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what
20 your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific
21 facts in declarations, depositions, answers to
22 interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided
23 in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the
24 defendant's declarations and documents and show that
25 there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If
26 you do not submit your own evidence in opposition,
27 summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against
28 you. If summary judgment is granted [in favor of the
defendants], your case will be dismissed and there will
be no trial.

19 See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en
20 banc).

21 Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
22 Civil Procedure and Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986)
23 (party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence
24 showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element
25 of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that because he bears the
26 burden of proving his allegations in this case, he must be prepared
27 to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files
28 his opposition to Defendants' dispositive motion. Such evidence

1 may include sworn declarations from himself and other witnesses to
2 the incident, and copies of documents authenticated by sworn
3 declaration. Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment
4 simply by repeating the allegations of his complaint.

5 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than
6 thirty (30) days after the date Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

7 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date
8 the reply brief is due. No hearing will be held on the motion
9 unless the Court so orders at a later date.

10 4. Discovery may be taken in this action in accordance with
11 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Leave of the Court pursuant
12 to Rule 30(a)(2) is hereby granted to Defendants to depose
13 Plaintiff and any other necessary witnesses confined in prison.

14 5. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be
15 served on Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been
16 designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to Defendants or
17 Defendants' counsel.

18 6. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case.
19 Plaintiff must keep the Court informed of any change of address and
20 must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion.

21 7. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable
22 extensions will be granted. Any motion for an extension of time
23 must be filed no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the deadline
24 sought to be extended.

25 This Order terminates Docket nos. 19 and 29.

26 IT IS SO ORDERED.

27 DATED: 3/19/2012

28 
CLAUDIA WILKEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE